

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/540,923

Examiner

Nikita Wells

Applicant(s)

COZIC ET AL.

Art Unit

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to "Preliminary Amendment received 29 June 2005."
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 29 June 2005 | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Nikita Wells
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2881

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 6-14 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to the independent claims 6 and 12, prior art fails to disclose or make obvious, in combination with other recited features of the claim limitations, a coupling device between a chromatograph and a mass spectrometer, comprising: an interface between a final detector of the chromatograph and the spectrometer, the interface comprising: a tube coming out of the chromatograph into which a capillary tube leading to the spectrometer is pushed, a temperature adjustment device; and a pressure sensor in the capillary tube coming out of the chromatograph or in the chamber of the mass spectrometer, through which a control module controlling the temperature adjustment device receives data.

With respect to the independent claim 9, prior art fails to disclose or make obvious, in combination with other recited features of the claim limitations, a coupling device between a chromatograph and a mass spectrometer, comprising: an interface between a final detector of the chromatograph and the spectrometer, the interface comprising: a tube coming out of the chromatograph into which a capillary tube leading to the spectrometer is pushed, a temperature adjustment device; and a flow sensor or a leak detector through the capillary tube coming out of the chromatograph, through which a control module controlling the temperature adjustment device receives data.

The dependent claims 7-8, 10-11, and 13-14, are allowable by virtue of their dependence upon the independent claims 6, 9, and 12, respectively.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gass et al. (6,907,768 B2) disclose a coupling device between a chromatograph and a mass spectrometer, comprising: an interface between the detector of the chromatograph and the spectrometer, including a capillary and temperature adjusting means, but lack the pressure sensor or flow sensor through which a control module controlling the temperature adjustment device receives data.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nikita Wells whose telephone number is (571) 272-2484. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2477. The central fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nikita" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wells".

Nikita Wells, Primary Examiner
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June 20, 2006